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## Chanticleer | Vol 55, Issue 25

Jacksonville State University

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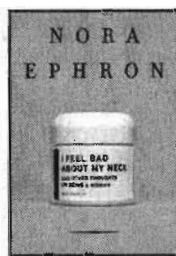
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# THE CHANTICLEER



www.thechanticleeronline.com

Hey, bookworms! We've got, not one, but two book reviews! See pages 3 and 4.

April 5, 2007

Jacksonville State University

Volume 55, Issue 25

## Sara Evans performs at JSU

*Night opened with Jimmy Wayne, featured surprise artist Brad Arnold from 3 Doors Down*

By Laura Moormann  
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

On Friday March 30, around 6:30 p.m., the line for the Sara Evans concert stretched from the doors of the Pete Matthews Coliseum to Highway 204. Some audience members had arrived an hour earlier to get in the front of the line. A flurry of excitement ran through the crowd as they waited for the doors to open at 7 p.m. The local country music station, WQSB, had a vehicle with music playing, and about three or four police cars were in attendance. A police officer came around with a sign of items which were not allowed inside. This included the usual: knives, lighters, matches, firearms, etc.

As the audience came through the doors they first noticed boxes to put in contraband, and also they had the pleasure to be searched with wands all over. Any kind of bag was also searched.

Once inside the coliseum there was an area up top to sit, or you could stand on the floor that was covered by plastic. Students that got there early were close to the stage, but also got to stand up for an extra hour. The lights finally dimmed amongst cheers and applause. Opening the show was Jimmy Wayne. He

ter. The song was titled "Stay Gone", and was a crowd favorite. He played by himself with an acoustic guitar, and had a very nice tenor voice, hitting those high notes with ease and grace. He thanked Jacksonville for being supportive, and announced that he was leaving to let Sara Evans' band set up. Everyone in the crowd was excited at the thought of Evans coming onstage soon.

Evans, started her set around 9 p.m. and sang many of her popular songs and had great stage presence and charisma. Some of the songs she sang included "You'll Always Be My Baby", "Coalmine", and "I Could Not Ask For More". She finished every song with



Photos courtesy Danielle Ault

Top: Country music star Sara Evans.

Middle: Evans and special guest Brad Arnold from 3 Doors Down.

Bottom: Opening act Jimmy Wayne.



question was answered by loud cheers and applause. She continued by saying that she has always loved them, and that she tried to talk them into coming with her that night. She went on to say that he gave in and that Brad Arnold came to sing with her.

The spotlight came on to show Brad



By Jessica Summe  
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, April 5, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Peacefest will be burning it up outside the TMB.

"Peacefest is nothing but a party for students," said Shannon Dawson, a member of All-Faith Student Alliance and one of the main organizers of the day. "It's the last big fun thing before finals start."

The half-day of events will feature rock bands Derk and Elvis and the Ben Nelson Band, as well as acoustic performers Judson Leonard and jazz musicians the Hodgepodge Orchestra. Between band changes, The JSU Writer's Club will host open mic sessions for any student willing to share their work with the campus. Also, Women's Issues and Empowerment will be hosting a car maintenance workshop and another of their Clothesline Projects. Winding themselves in amongst all the other events will be the Dramatic Fraternity, acting out quick skits and improvisation exercises. Amnesty International will also be making their presence felt.

"Last year, Peacefest was a test run and very rushed," said Dawson. "This year we branched out to include more student groups so they can have the exposure of Peacefest. We have groups that promote tolerance and open-mindedness, but we have no agenda -- we're not preaching an agenda -- we're just promoting an afternoon of fun. This is for everybody on campus who doesn't feel relaxed going to other university events."

As well as the six-hour festivities, there are other events connected to Peacefest as well on Thursday. The Sociology Club will be hosting its monthly social (and Peacefest afterparty) at the Sports Nut at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., JSU students and staff can catch a second helping of Derk and Elvis at Java Jolt.

Who knows? There might be some other events going on at Peacefest as well.

"Should we have water balloons?" Dawson asked the Chanticleer staff as her interview concluded. "I think we should have water balloons."



an extra hour. The lights finally dimmed amongst cheers and applause. Opening the show was Jimmy Wayne. He was welcomed warmly and greeted the fans with a smile and some small talk. A few students started a quick conversation with him, and one guy that asked him to play Freebird. Wayne agreed, as long long as the student sang along. This didn't last long though, because the guy who requested the song forgot the words quickly.

One song Wayne sang was special to his heart, and was written about his sis-

cluded "You'll Always Be My Baby", "Coalmine", and "I Could Not Ask For More". She finished every song with a "Thank you" and a smile. She also danced with her band and played air guitar during short instrumentals. During a break in her songs she introduced her band, and told the audience that her younger sister and older brother were members of the band.

Later on she began to tell a story of her favorite band that she got to meet a year or so ago. She then asked the crowd "Anyone like 3 Doors Down?" Her

he gave in and that Brad Arnold came to sing with her.

The spotlight came on to show Brad Arnold of 3 Doors Down walking on-stage. This was the highlight of the night when they sang "Here Without You" together. Evans was able to keep the audience going even after Arnold left the stage, and the show got even better. She sang an older song "Suds in the Bucket" later in the show, and most everyone sang along. The show finally ended around 10 p.m., and everyone left satisfied with an amazing performance.

# Health screening promotes obesity awareness

By Tashara Childs  
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 3, The West Anniston Foundation For Your Life held a obesity and diabetes screening on the 3rd floor of the Theron Montgomery Building. Fred Smith, a Jacksonville State University Alumni, was the director of this screening. He partnered with the West Anniston Foundation and Linda Shelton, a guidance counselor here at JSU, hold this screening three times a year, once a semester and once in the summer.

Obesity and diabetes are two health conditions that go hand in hand. Because of the fast food society that we live in today, obesity is one of the leading conditions plaguing many Americans.

"We all have a tendency to eat unhealthy foods out of

convenience," said Shelton.

Obesity should be stopped for health reasons before other conditions such as diabetes can form. These conditions do not target a certain age group, sex, or ethnicity. It is vital

to have these screenings at universities where diversity is guaranteed. Organizations such as the West Anniston Foundation are helpful in informing people on ways to prevent these conditions.

Fast food restaurants, such as Wendy's and McDonald's, have also began to put healthier foods on their menus.

"It helps to be able to at least have the choice to eat healthy," said Shelton.

The screening at the TMB gave an estimated body fat percentage as well as blood sugar levels. Individuals were also given tips on how to lead a healthier lifestyle. Through diet and exercise obesity and diabetes are serious conditions that can be controlled. Though these conditions are spreading worldwide, it is good to have a local organization willing to aid in the community.

Counseling and Career Services also sponsors a health fair held annually on the third Tuesday in September.



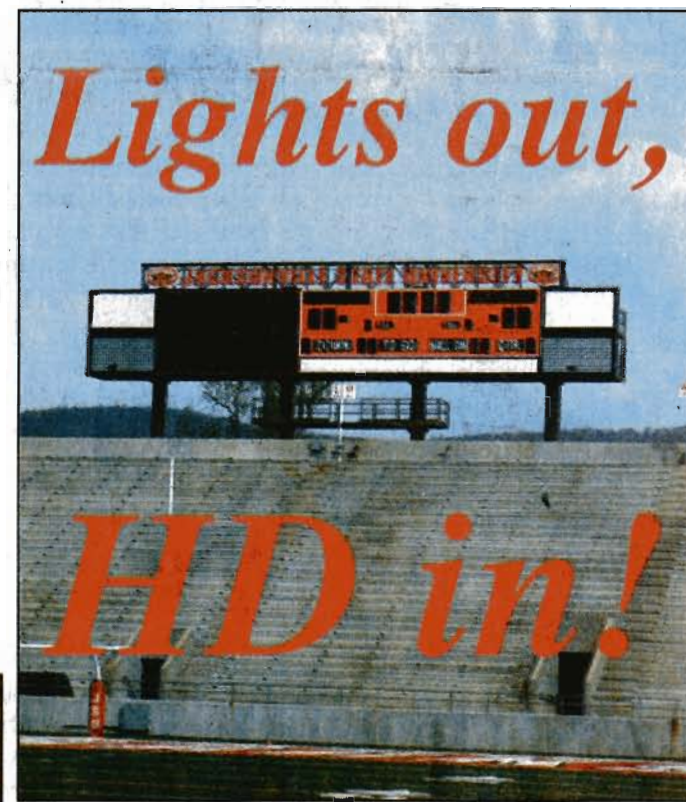
Photo by Chris Yow

Two JSU students answer a questionnaire at the obesity and diabetes screening.



Photo by Chris Yow

Craig Jackson gets his finger pricked at the TMB.



By Chris Lundy  
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Three years ago, President Meehan was excited to see over 500 students walk across the new field turf at Paul Snow Stadium for the graduation ceremonies. This year, he is about to embark on another milestone as this year's graduating class could very well see themselves walk across the stage, shake his hands, receive their diploma and capture it all in high definition effect.

"The Board of Trustees approved a proposal to install a new video display board at the football stadium, replace the one in the student center and the one at Pete Mathews Coliseum," said sports information director Greg Seitz. "We're going to add another scoreboard on the other end on the Fieldhouse to display some of the information that is on the new board, like the score, downs and timeouts. We're also replacing the play clocks on the field as well."

The project for the boards comes as a package thanks to Daktroniks Inc., who won the bid to replace the bulb boards previously in place. In addition to the high definition screen, the new board also hold room for nine potential sponsors to advertise during football games, and the opportunity for others to use the video board to display upcoming JSU events during timeouts or halftime.

"We are currently pitching ideas to potential sponsors," stated Tim Garner, Director of Marketing. "We want to be able to give our sponsors the proper package as far as our media resources, and this is our primary focus. With that in mind, I think it's going to be great for our students, faculty, staff and alumni."

The video boards outside of TMB and Pete Mathews Coliseum were put in place over Spring Break. The construction for the video board at Paul Snow Stadium began in March and was

See Signs, page 2



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRO:** Public Relations Organization will now meet on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in The Chanticleer office in Self Hall. **Contact:** Jaclyn Cosper, 256-404-2590.

**Writer's Club:** The JSU Writer's Club will meet on the 7th floor of Houston Cole library at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday's. **Contact:** pharding@jsu.edu.

**All-Faith Student Alliance:** AFSA is sponsoring Peacefest on the TMB lawn Apr. 5 beginning at 12 noon. Local bands will be performing live and other events will be held such as a car maintenance workshop and open poetry mic. **Contact:** Professor Hudspeth @ hudspeth@jsu.edu

**The Chanticleer Announcements Policy:** Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed, and are limited to 50 words. Submissions must include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to Chanticleer@jsu.edu by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and clarity.

## CAMPUS CRIME

Mar. 27

JSU reported disorderly conduct at Fitzpatrick Hall.

Mar. 28

Tierney Miller reported theft of property at Houston Cole Library.

Reported possession of marijuana.

# Silly Christians, Easter's for rabbits



By Nick Lehwald  
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Ah, Easter, the most sacred and celebrated Christian holiday. And being the most sacred holiday, it naturally comes with its own bag of cheeky characters and early morning magic to cheer the kiddies and fill our hearts with smiley cheer. There's our old friend the Easter Bunny with his crazy colored Easter eggs, filling Easter baskets with chocolate and eggs and chocolate eggs and plastic eggs with chocolate inside them and chocolate eggs with money inside. Hooray!!

Wait a second -- rabbits don't lay eggs, certainly not colored ones anyway. How did colored eggs become one of the first things people think of when referring to Easter? It all began a very long time ago, just as the Christian church was beginning to spread and gain a foothold in the world.

Like many things Christian, Easter as we know it is actually a compilation of pagan holidays and symbols that were absorbed into Christianity when the church was looking to expand in the early second century.

Let's begin with the origins of the name, Easter.

The word Easter was derived from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, the goddess fertility and rebirth. In early Europe, tribes used to cel-

celebration took place around the time of the resurrection. It must not have taken long to connect the dots; so Christian missionaries began to realize that people would be more reluctant to give up their holidays and festivals than they would

ism.

Now, the mystery behind the Easter egg. As stated before, during the celebration of the equinox, peasants would place colored eggs upon the altar as a sacrifice to the gods for a year of good harvest and

of Christ and the renewal of life. Eating of colored eggs during the spring festival where once considered a form of magic and a prayer for increased fertility and for a large harvest.

In case you're wondering how the Easter bunny fits into all this, it's nothing shocking. If you follow the trend of this article and understand that eggs and the very name of Easter is based off paganism, then you can have two guesses as to where the Easter bunny fits in. That's right, it's another pagan symbol assimilated into Christianity. In the olden times, the rabbit was used to symbolize fertility, as rabbits are known for their promiscuous tendencies.

The notion of an egg laying rabbit first arrived in the United States during the 18th century. The German immigrants who lived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country brought stories of the "Osterhase" (hase meaning hare). In the stories, only the good children would receive a colored egg in nests that they made from their caps and bonnets, much like Santa Claus during Christmas.

The American tradition of the Easter bunny leaves baskets full of chocolate and plastic eggs with money. Easter egg hunts happen all across the na-

tion.

So here it is, the whole history of Easter.

## The Chanticleer Editorial Cartoon



their gods.

Using that knowledge, the Christian missionaries simply incorporated pagan rituals and practices

fertility. While the exact history is unknown, eggs have been used as symbols of rebirth and fertility for thousands of years. It is thought

Reported possession of marijuana.

Ashley Gray reported harassment at Fitzpatrick Hall.

### Mar. 29

Jonathan Gasbarro reported unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle at Crow Hall.

Erin Gaines reported theft of property at Houston Cole Library.

### Mar. 30

Jennifer Simpson reported theft of property at Ayers Hall parking lot.

### Apr. 1

Reginald Stewart reported domestic violence at Campus Inn Apartments.

### Apr. 3

Central Beck was arrested for buying or receiving stolen property.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050.

the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, the goddess fertility and rebirth. In early Europe, tribes used to celebrate on or near the vernal equinox (the official first day of spring when night and day are both 12 hours) the arrival of spring. People believed that by placing colored eggs on an altar and blessing seeds, the ceremony would give them fertility for the year, both on and off the farm.

When Christian missionaries first observed this event, it occurred to them that this particular pagan

Using that knowledge, the Christian missionaries simply incorporated pagan rituals and practices into the already existing Christian festivals. Through this method of absorbing pagan rituals, festivals and symbols, the early Christian church began to grow rapidly and expand its influence all over the world. As historians look further into the history of Easter, they have found that the holiday has become a convergence of three religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Pagan-

unknown, eggs have been used as symbols of rebirth and fertility for thousands of years. It is thought that origins of this tradition dates as far back as the beginnings of human civilization.

Christianity, however, has come to regard the egg as a symbol of life and of Jesus's resurrection.

As for the origins of the traditional painting of the eggs, not much is known. To this day, the Greeks dye their Easter eggs in red, the color of blood, to recognize the blood

So here it is, the whole history of Easter.

What's that, you still don't know how to determine when Easter will happen next year? It's easy. Easter always falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This past year the equinox fell on March 21, and Easter shall be on April 8. Well, now you know.

Now try and find the Islamic New Year on a Gregorian calendar. Happy Easter everyone.

## Signs, from page 1

just recently completed. Although it is up, it is not operational as of yet. The display features new LED technology, which enhances the color images. Organizations who were able to promote during Spring Fling week were able to see the effects of the updated technology.

"We want to get the attention of the people who pass by," said Terry Casey, Director of Student Life. "It looks great, and we want our organizations to use this board to their advantage."

There are many advantages to having the new video boards. With the eradication of the bulbs, it will cut down cost and increase the amount of advertising, especially with the new video board outside of Pete Mathews Coliseum.

"The old board was more than 20 years old," said Seitz. "It was outdated and getting difficult to

manage as far as trying to replace the bulbs. It was getting too expensive to operate."

The bulbs had a substantial deficit as far as maintenance and financial constraints. Missing bulbs were noticeable in displays, which made the

boards less attractive to some. With the new video boards on two of the busiest roads in Jacksonville, they are sure to keep the attention of drivers.

"The cost of these LED boards is substantially less than your normal bulbs

that have been in place," said Fuller. "We are able to utilize all of our campus events, and the location of these video boards is excellent."

As the upcoming football season approaches, the construction is moving at a rapid pace in order

to have everything set. The audience in the stands will see the benefit of the screen, and so will the players.

"It's going to be an advantage for everyone in the stands, not just the players," stated Seitz. "The players are extremely excited, especially when they're play is going to be up on the screen. A big plus is we're able to promote our other sports on campus during the games."

"It is my wish that the video board will be ready by graduation," said Fuller. "It's more

than just watching a throw or a block or a tackle. Parents get to see their kids walk across the stage on the screen and see their smiles as they receive their diplomas from Dr. Meehan."

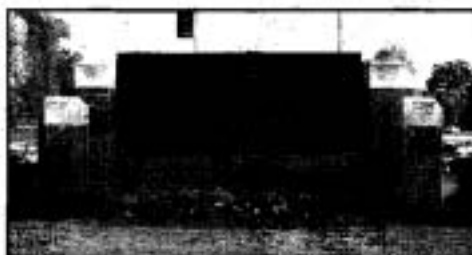


Photo by Kira Wright

The new sign outside the TMB.



Photo by Kira Wright

The new sign outside the Pete Mathews Coliseum.

5 Thursday	6 Friday	7 Saturday	8 Sunday
Nursing Honors Day Higher Education Day 26th Annual JSU Social Work Conference Holocaust Remembrance	Education Technology Showcase		
9 Monday	10 Tuesday	11 Wednesday	12 Thursday
Faculty Senate Meeting SGA Senate Meeting Last Day to Drop or Withdraw pass/fail Blackboard Assessment Training Workshop	Presentation and Q&A Session for AVPEMSA Candidate Dr. Richard Kitson-Walters	AAA Organizational Meeting Campus Outreach	JSU Community Orchestra Concert



# Ephron gains wisdom with age

By Courtney Birmingham  
The Chanticleer Guest Reporter

Once you read her detailed work, *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts On Being A Woman*, you will truly understand what Nora Ephron means by her title. This wonderful exposé she has written about the misfortunes of getting old is primarily geared towards middle-aged women. I would suggest that anyone approaching age fifty read this book. She gives us insight to what she regrets from her own life that will help you live your own life to its utmost potential. However, reading it from a young adult's point of view, as I have, is

especially enlightening.

Ephron, a triple nominee for the Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay, has a dry sense of humor as she describes what she has learned through the process of aging.

She covers an array of topics throughout her book: everything from cooking, to relationships, to growing old, to menopause to empty-nest syndrome. Growing old, through the eyes of Nora Ephron, does not seem to be something to look forward to. Her thought provoking narrative vividly evokes feelings of contingency.

As years pass by so do cherished moments in our

lives. Ephron shares with us one of her most missed memories of cabbage strudel. She deliciously describes this delectable treat in such a way that leaves your mouth watering from the thought of it touching your tongue.

It is especially interesting to read what Ephron has to say in her chapter titled, On Maintenance. This chapter reviews the effects of age her body has fallen victim to and the maintenance needed to keep her looking young. Although I have not yet experienced any of these tribulations, it does not mean that I do not appreciate the imagery used.



Photo courtesy www.half.com

Aging is shown through the eyes of Nora Ephron. She tells the good, the bad and the ugly.

I learned that she does not feel that it is better to be older than to be younger. Your metabolism is slower than ever, your memory is shot, and friends are dying all around you. Now that she is sixty-five, she regrets not experiencing life to its fullest. She can no longer do some of the things she passed up the chance to do

when she was younger. Discover for yourself what Nora Ephron has to say in *I Feel Bad About My Neck* as she takes us back to her childhood, to the years when she raised children of her own, and to her current state of mind.



## Sound Boys will Off: be boys

All my life I have been consistently exposed to sports. Football, basketball, baseball - you name it and my father loves anything about it. I feel that it is safe to say the same about almost every man. It's an obsession. I honestly believe that just like drugs and alcohol can control a life, so can sports.

Sports are everywhere! If men are not watching it on television, they are watching it live, listening to it on the radio, or reading about it in the newspaper. Not a day goes by when sports are ignored. Twenty-four/seven coverage can even be ordered off the Internet, and I dare say my boyfriend is one of its many subscribers.

game occasionally, but please do not ask me to watch it on TV. Even worse than watching a game on TV is watching someone talking about the game on TV.

If someone were to ask me what the highlights of a game were, I honestly would not be able to tell them. I am more interested in watching the people at the game. If a man were asked the same question, they would not only be able to tell you the highlights of that game, they could tell you the highlights of the game before and the game before that and so on. But don't expect him to remember his own wedding anniversary!

life. You know the sports I am talking about that are hardly publicized yet my father, boyfriend, and all of their friends somehow know everything there is to know about them. Obviously, men cannot resist their sports! It is a drug, which could ultimately control their lives if they let it.

Thank you,

Courtney Birmingham  
JSU Junior

Editor's note: Sound Off is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion

## Local Concert Calendar



Apr. 5  
Sun Domingo  
Brother's Bar

Trey Carter  
Smoking Moose

Apr. 6  
Blues Old Standard  
Brother's Bar

Apr. 7  
Standard Candle  
Brother's Bar

Unveil  
Chestnut Station

Apr. 9  
Free Songwriters' Roundtable  
The Bottletree Cafe

Apr. 10  
Beny Davis Project  
Brother's Bar

The Decemberists Official After Party  
The Bottletree Cafe

**JSU & Army ROTC**  
A Premier Officer Training Environment



and I dare say my boyfriend is one of its many subscribers.

I must admit that, although I was raised by a man who could not live a day without knowing the latest sports news, I do not particularly care for them. Of course it is fun to go to a

to remember his own wedding anniversary!

I have not even mentioned the "less-popular-yet-still-equally-as-important-to-him" sports. These are the sports that I probably wouldn't even know existed if it weren't for the men in my

Editor's note: *Sound Off* is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion about, well, whatever you have an opinion about. Please send submissions to [chantynews@yahoo.com](mailto:chantynews@yahoo.com)

# Modest Mouse still afloat

By Ben Heine  
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

On their fifth studio album, Modest Mouse continues to evolve with a spectacular, and this time, collaborative effort. *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank* hit stores March 30. For the second album in three years, the band has officially adopted guitar player Johnny Marr from the The Smiths. Marr and lead singer Issac Brock worked together in the writing process, so this is perhaps the first Modest Mouse album that is not entirely fueled by Brock's own negative-yet-positive energy. Also helping with some backup vocals, is frontman James Mercer of The Shins, with an equally quirky voice.

*We Were Dead* is not without its, now characteristic, brass section that adds so much by way of reflection on Brock's passionate style and epic lyrics. This album emits a much more aggressive and direct vibe than previously heard. More guttural yelling and stern, Tom Waits style vocals are heard here. The

album mostly uses the straightforward rock formula; electric guitar and snappy percussion.

While their last album, *Good News For People Who Love Bad News* was full of strings, and

they have often incorporated an accordion, *We Were Dead* just seems to rock the good ol' fashioned way. Though one of the better, and more heart-felt tracks "Missed the Boat" gives us some of the carefully rationed, uplifting songs that Modest Mouse seems to pull off so well.

While the album may be lacking a super-catchy single along the lines of "Float On" from their last record, Mercer's vocals add some extra punch to a few songs with Billboard potential. "We've Got Everything" and "Florida" are immediate favorites. A new direction for the band, "Fire It Up" comes complete with mad beats. The album is another dynamite addition to Modest Mouse's already classic Discography. With more testosterone behind these fourteen tracks, perhaps it could go even more mainstream than their previous album. None of us really want that, but Modest Mouse seems to be able to keep it together better than most.

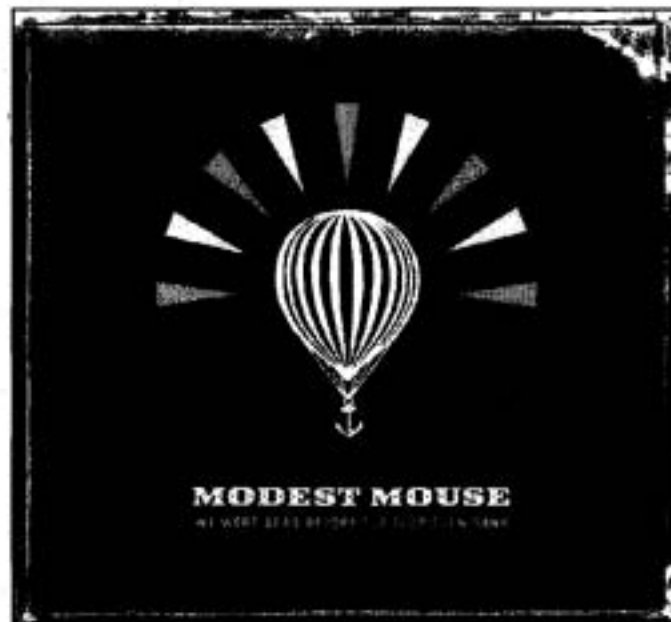


Photo by Ben Heine

Modest Mouse switches styles to a more aggressive and direct vibe in *We were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank*.



Rated 4 out of 5 Gamecocks



Captain Curt Rowland  
B.S. Education  
JSU Class of 1997



Lieutenant Sandy Wilson  
B.S. Criminal Justice  
JSU Class of 2004



Captain Suzanne Peyer  
B.S. Elementary Education  
JSU Class of 1990



Lieutenant Gavin West  
B.S. Recreation Admin.  
JSU Class of 2004

For Info Call: (256) 782-5601  
or email [ROTC@JSU.EDU](mailto:ROTC@JSU.EDU)  
[www.rotc.jsu.edu](http://www.rotc.jsu.edu)



**THE CHANTICLEER**  
Serving Jacksonville and the University community since 1934

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Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.

## Letters Policy:

The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our office in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to [chantynews@yahoo.com](mailto:chantynews@yahoo.com).

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. Letters may be edited for style, brevity, or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

WHY DID  
YOU COME TO  
JACKSONVILLE  
STATE?



Kiyon Daniels  
Junior

"The tuition was cheap and I was tired of the same thing. I wanted something different."



Shannon Dawson  
Senior

"My parents made me!"

# Bitter is the New Black:

*confessions of a condescending, Egomaniacal, Self-centered Smart-Ass or Why You Should Never carry a Prada Bag to the Unemployment Office*

By Jessica Summe  
The Chanticleer  
Editor-in-Chief

Jen Lancaster's book, Bitter is the New Black, treads a fine line between fiction and non-fiction, chick lit and biography, humor and blog. Unlike fellow "author" James Frey, Lancaster takes the genre of creative nonfiction and makes it respectable and entertaining again.

After being laid off from her high-status high-paying job after 9/11, Lancaster takes us on a journey from Saks Fifth Avenue to Kmart, constantly reworking her and husband Fletch's life to jive with their shrinking income. Along the way, Lancaster also pulls us along on an internal journey as well, as she morphs from self-centered high-end businesswoman to someone...well, normal.

Lancaster's writing is sharp, funny, and to-the-point. She outlines her adventures at the temp office, the apartment, and Vegas so clearly that it's probably better (and indefinitely funnier) to read her version of events than to be there in person. The confrontations with co-workers, her husband, and her dogs are the same way.

In the beginning, Lancaster's priorities concern-

decreasing money flow. (She plans a quickie wedding in Vegas, hoping that the presents will pay off some of the raging bills.)

about the fate of Lancaster --- even from the first page, you've just got a feeling that she's going to make it. There's no real danger or disappointment, even though both Lancaster and the patient Fletch both lose their jobs and their apartment, and only avoid moving back in with Lancaster's parents by the skin of their teeth.

But except for the fact that Bitter is the New Black might get shelved in fiction instead of non-fiction, this book has almost no fault. And when you're lying on the beach, sipping your mai tai and thumbing through the work,

you can haughtily reply "It's a biography, thank you very much" when some plebian passerby comments on your choice of chick lit.

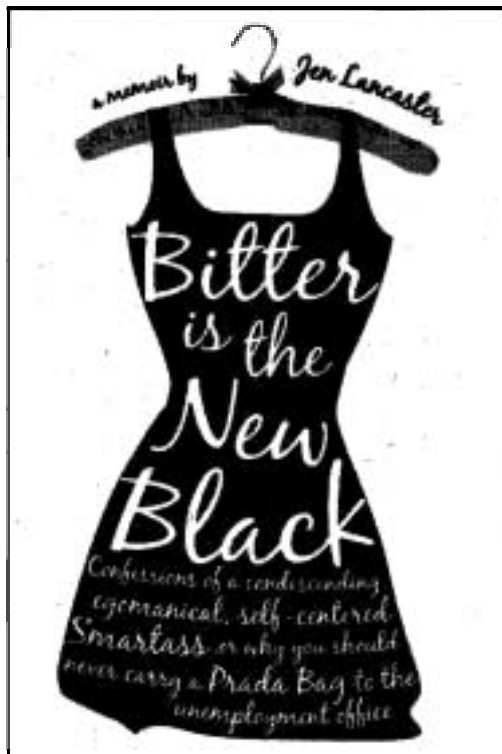


Photo courtesy of www.jennsylvania.com

Jennifer Lancaster's next book is entitled Bright Lights, Big Ass.

While one is reminded of the Shopoholic novels (by Sophie Kinsella) at some points, Lancaster's situation, unlike the irrepressible Becky's, happens to be real.

That's the one downfall of this book, if any. Lancaster's novel reads too much like fiction at some points, but that's inherent in the writing, not the events themselves. (Lancaster prefaces her work with "although this memoir is based on real events in my life, I've taken a few liberties for

## Letter to the editor: What happened to the promised extra events?

Just about one year ago, JSU students, the faculty senate, and the

JSU board of trustees were told that spending approximately one million dollars on artificial turf would enable the university to schedule "extra" events in the stadium which would generate income for the university. These events were to be other events than those which have traditionally been at the stadium: i.e., the SGA concert and high school marching band contests held during the spring, etc....

So, now that we have the new turf with a lifespan of 7(?) years, how many of these extra events have taken place and how many more are booked? Also, how much income have the extra

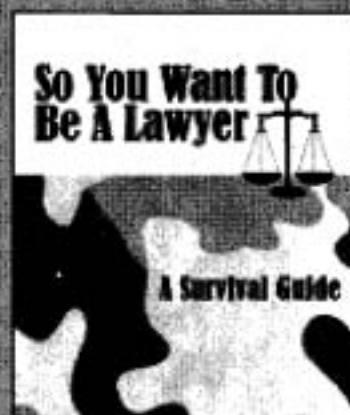
events generated for the university? In light of the secrecy surrounding the salary of the JSU football coach, perhaps a spokesperson from the university would provide *The Chanticleer* with the facts and figures about the stadium in lieu of the amount of Mr. Crowe's salary. Certainly, the stadium figures would not be a personal matter.

Thank you,  
Larry Welch  
JSU Junior

*Editor's note: Please see letters to the editor policies at the bottom of page 3 if you have any questions. The Chanticleer does not support nor is responsible for any opinions expressed in a letter to the editor.*

## JSU Alumni holds book signing

JSU alumni and local attorney, Phillip Estes will be hosting a book signing at the JSU Campus Bookstore Friday, Apr. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for his new novel, *So You Want to be a Lawyer*. Estes obtained both his undergrad and MBA degree from JSU and has taught in an adjunct position for





- Be a citizen of the United States
- Reside in Calhoun County Alabama
- Be at least 18 years old on or before election day
- Not have been convicted of a disqualifying felony, or if you have been convicted, you must have had your civil rights restored
- Not have been declared "mentally incompetent" by a court



# J-Day shows off quarterbacks, depth for 2007

By Chris Lundy  
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

In a losing effort, White team honorary head coach Rusty Fuller still felt good about the game. More importantly, he felt great about the players.

"I am amazed at their attitude," said Fuller. "They've got some playmakers on this team, especially at quarterback."

Cedric Johnson and Matt Hardin stole the show during the annual J-Day game, which showcased a skilled precision passer and a scrambler making plays with his legs.

The first quarter set the tone for the rest of the game. With the Red team taking the first offensive possession, it was a chance for transfer quarterback Cedric Johnson to showcase his talent and prove why he became a Gamecock. On his first drive, Johnson did just that, finding wide receiver Taurean Rhetta in the end zone for an early 7-0 lead. Kicker Gavin Hallford hit all of

his attempted tries, kicking for both teams during the J-Day game.

Last year's starting quarterback Matt Hardin came out ready to defend his starting spot, and did so skillfully. From midfield, Hardin found receiver Derrick Harris, who took the catch all the way to the end zone to tie the game. Later in the second quarter, running back Shawn Green opened the gap for the Red team with a 19-yard touchdown run to put them up 21-7. The Red team would take their run and add another touchdown before the half when Johnson connected with Maurice Dupree to setup a run for Logan Hooks.

In the second half, the White team came out fighting to catch up to the Red team. Hardin found Harris for their second connection of the day, which made the score 28-14. However, Johnson came back out ready to put more points on the board, and with a few tricks up his sleeve. On the first play of the second half for the Red team, Johnson flee-flickered the ball back to Green, who found Johnson open for a huge gain to move the chains. Later in the drive, Johnson found Rhetta again for a 35-14 lead. Johnson and the Red team pushed their lead even further with a Hooks touchdown run to start off the fourth quarter.

Hardin would not give up on his team. After moving down field via another Hardin-Harris pass, number three found James Wilkerson to make it a 42-21 game. Johnson continued to stretch his lead with another touchdown pass, hitting tight end Deonte Carter for his fourth touchdown pass of the game.

On the ensuing drive for the White team, it was the Hardin-Harris show. With a few minutes remaining in the

game, Hardin began his drive at the 30-yard line. Hardin hit Harris to move the ball to midfield. On the next play, Hardin found Harris, who leaped in the air over two defenders to bring the ball down in the end zone. The 49-28 score would not last long.

Johnson started on his own 30-yard line and prepared his team to score once more. Johnson hit Dupree for his fifth touchdown pass of the day, increasing their lead to 56-28. Hardin's attempt at a trick play for a final score went awry when missed a catch from Harris and landed in the back of the end zone for a safety. The Red team's 58-28 victory was one of bragging rights, but mainly one of fun.

"We came here to open up and have fun," said Red team honorary coach Herb Winches. "They have some terrific talent on this team, and they could very well be a favorite to win the OVC."

Despite being on the losing end of the internal battle, wide receiver Derrick Harris performed well, catching six receptions for a game high 212 yards and three touchdowns. For Harris, it raises his stock for the mere fact that he was not even on the field last season.

"I love to be out there with my teammates," said Harris. "I'm psyched, ready and I want it, and I can't wait to see myself on the new board."

Johnson impressed the crowd, breaking from tackles and finding open receivers in the process, but his arm did most of the work in completing 12-of-16 passes for 277 yards and five touchdowns. Hardin was not to be outdone, going 13-for-21 with 276 yard and four touchdowns on the evening. The depth at the quarterback position is a dangerous force for the upcoming OVC seasons and a delight for head coach Jack Crowe.

"There are no 'what if's' about quarterback because Hardin is going to be the starting quarterback entering the season," said Crowe. "Both Hardin and Johnson

are competitive, and although Johnson had the benefit of some of the players the Matt didn't, they were still impressive. If anybody else has any questions, they can buy a ticket."



Photo By Kira Wright

Shawn Green gets tackled by Carnell Clark, but not before he scored his only touchdown of the J-Day spring game. Green, of Weaver, Ala., rushed for 80 yards on 17 carries. He also threw for 32 yards while catching one pass for 17 yards.

## Tenn Tech takes two of three from Gamecocks

From Staff Reports

The Jacksonville State softball team split an Ohio Valley Conference doubleheader with league-leading Tennessee Tech on Saturday afternoon at University

Freshman Kelly McGregor (1-1) was tagged with the loss after allowing one run on one hit, Potts' homer, in three innings of work. She struck out one and walked a pair. Sophomore Amy Brown allowed the other two runs on two hits in one

## MIRROR

Chris Yow  
The Chanticleer Web Editor



## MIRROR

Chris Lundy  
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

# Should JSU move up to Division I?

"Whup Troy!"

Wow, I never had the pleasure of being apart of that. But, then if I did, then I would have to take it a step further and say "Beat the Blazers!" Let's take it to Opelika or Tuscaloosa and chant "Tame the Tigers!" or "Crush the Crimson Tide!" (or War Eagles or Elephants. I've never understood that whole two mascot concept).

But, Troy is long gone. And now, our beloved in-state rivals are leaving us as well. What are we going to do now? How do we set up

that work like a well-oiled machine when academics, athletics and other prominent student organizations stand out on campus as elite among the rest of their competition. The students are happy and enjoy the opportunity to learn and get to know their professors. Faculty and staff members continue to show and prove why they are professors at their respective institutions. Most importantly, the president is proud to say, "Yes, that's my school."

I know you're reading this and think I'm on a tangent, but just look

Things are going to be changing soon in the Ohio Valley Conference soon. To steal a line from an old pal, in case you've been hiding under a rock for the past few weeks, the Samford Bulldogs have signed a contract with the Southern Conference to begin full conference play in 2008.

With Samford leaving the OVC, that leaves Jacksonville State without a travel partner within a reasonable distance, with Tennessee State in Nashville

the larger schools in the country, right now they aren't up to the smaller schools in the state.

However, it would not take long for JSU to start getting the athletes and coaches to bring the program up.

I hate to continue throwing Troy in this as an example, but their program has been very successful in their move up.

With Mississippi State being the biggest program Jacksonville State has played in recent memory, Troy



Photo By Kira Wright

Taurean Rhetta looks downfield after breaking a tackle. On Saturday, Rhetta caught four passes for 91 yards and one touchdown in his final J-Day spring game.



Conference doubleheader with league-leading Tennessee Tech on Saturday afternoon at University Field.

The Gamecocks (17-12, 5-4 OVC) rode another three-hit gem by junior ace Karla Pittman to a 3-2 win in a battle between two of the league's top pitchers the opener, before a pair of home runs lifted the Golden Eagles (30-12, 8-2 OVC) to a 3-2 win in the nightcap.

Pittman (10-6) went toe-to-toe with reigning OVC Pitcher of the Year Bonnie Bynum and bested her, allowing two unearned runs in the seventh inning of her 14th complete game in 16 starts this season. The North Canton, Ohio, native allowed three balls out of the infield to the OVC's top home run hitting team and dropped her league-leading earned run average to 0.83.

Junior Alana Hicks had two of the Gamecocks' five hits in three at bats, including a solo home run in the fourth inning that broke a scoreless tie and was JSU's first hit of the afternoon. She drove in a pair, thanks to an RBI single in the sixth inning.

Hicks' blast, her fifth of the season, put JSU on the board first, before a two-run sixth gave the Gamecocks' just enough runs to pull out the win. Sophomore Jackie Jarman drove in the team's other run with a single of her own in the sixth.

TTU was able to take advantage of three Gamecock errors in the top of the seventh to plate a pair of unearned runs, but the Golden Eagles' rally fell just short when Katie Speiser was retired on a ground out with two outs and two runners on.

Bynum (18-8) took the loss, despite striking out nine JSU batters. She surrendered three runs on five hits in six innings of work.

In the second game of the twinbill, TTU took a 1-0 lead in the second on a solo home run from Ashley Potts. Speiser extended the lead to 3-0 in the fifth, when her two-run homer cleared the wall in center.

The Gamecocks scored one in the bottom of the fifth after a TTU fielding miscue allowed junior Rachel Fleming, who led off the inning with a walk, to advance to third after a single by freshman Chrissy O'Neal. Fleming would score on a fielder's choice by freshman Nikki Prier.

Jax State threatened in the bottom of the seventh, scoring a run on an RBI single from Prier, but Hicks fouled out to third with two out and two on to end the rally.

home, in three innings of work she struck out one and walked a pair. Sophomore Amy Brown allowed the other two runs on two hits in one and one-thirds innings in the circle, while sophomore Melissa Dowling pitched the final two and two-thirds innings, holding the Golden Eagles to just one hit.

**Sarah Street (12-3) earned the win** for TTU after allowing two runs, one earned on five hits in six and one-thirds innings. Bynum got the final two outs to pick up the save.

The two teams will square off in the rubber match of the three-game series at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon at University Field. Admission is free.

## SUNDAY

Two big innings lifted Tennessee Tech to a 12-2 win over the Jacksonville State softball team on Sunday afternoon to claim the rubber game of a key Ohio Valley Conference series at University Field.

The first-place Golden Eagles (31-12, 9-2 OVC) used three home runs to score six runs in each the third and sixth innings to claim the series after splitting a doubleheader with the Gamecocks (17-13, 5-5 OVC) on Saturday.

Stephanie Fischer drove in four runs in a 2-for-4 outing that included her seventh home run of the season. Beth Boden and Ashley Potts also homered for the Golden Eagles, giving them more homers off JSU pitching in one game all season.

Junior Alana Hicks belted her sixth home run of the year and the second of the series, a solo shot in the second inning that gave JSU an early 1-0 lead. She also drove in the team's only other run in the sixth on a sacrifice fly that plated freshman Chrissy O'Neal from third.

**O'Neal led a six-hit JSU attack** by going 2-for-2 with a walk. Freshman Nikki Prier was 2-for-3 on the day with a double. Junior Whitney Elder had the team's other base hit.

TTU touched JSU starter Karla Pittman (11-7) for six runs, five earned, on seven hits in just 2 1/3 innings. Sophomore Melissa Dowling surrendered four runs on six hits in three innings of relief, while freshman Kelly McGregor allowed two runs on a pair of hits while retiring the final two Tech batters.

Bonnie Bynum (19-8) earned the win in the circle for TTU after allowing two earned runs on six hits in six innings of work. She struck out six and walked one.

But, Troy is long gone. And now, our beloved in-state rivals are leaving us as well. What are we going to do now? How do we get up to the big division ranks? Simple. Win games.

This is not a tough concept, but seeing it how we're in a state, where we have to battle with the newly named "Sabanation" and "Tuberville Town", it hurts us to progress forward in any way, shape, form or fashion. What's worse? We're battling Alabama and Auburn on our own campus.

Red is a strong color, yet it is watered down in this area by strong blends of crimson, blue and orange. Students ride around with "AU" tags on their cars or "Bama" license plates. True, there are some JSU plates on campus, but I'm sure if I went around to ask most of you the real reason for the plates, I can guarantee a "free parking decal" statement 8 out of 10 times.

Aside from the Auburn and Alabama quarrel, we have to separate ourselves in a way that allows JSU to market itself on its own without much soliciting, and I believe that starts with athletics. It is the most noticeable commodity at any institution, and fans can be reached as early as birth (trust me, I've seen UGA baby cribs and bibs) and as late as deceased alumni leaving a hefty chunk of change to their school. Departments within the university, such as Development, Marketing and Alumni divisions are able to form a circle and a bond

importance, the president is proud to say, "Yes, that's my school."

I know you're reading this and think I'm on a tangent, but just look at the hassles that could be created by JSU going to Division I.

First of all, to be considered, there has to be a certain enrollment policy. With the possibility of 10,000 plus students, parking would be more of a concern than it is now. Higher divisions require more work ethic as far as academic standards. I appreciate the value of the education that I am receiving. We have great faculty and staff members here who work hard to give us the education we need to prepare for the real world at a cost efficient price. We have a president and athletic director who dedicate their time and efforts to produce solid students and student-athletes and provide them with quality facilities. When we graduate, we become the donors who wish to stay in touch with the university via the alumni department.

I can go on and on about this issue, but the bottom line is winning brings much more than people think it does. It creates opportunities for a more open market with a bigger return.

Once we put the pieces of the puzzle together, then we can entertain the option of a possible conference change or upgrade. Until then, Tame the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, not the War Eagles.

State without a travel partner within a reasonable distance, with Tennessee State in Nashville being the next closest conference school. Without a travel partner, the cost of traveling will increase significantly for JSU. And with certain coaches getting pay raises lately, who knows if the athletic department can cope with that kind of loss.

I, for one, am an advocate of our beloved Gamecocks to become members of the NCAA football's Bowl Championship division. The obvious reasons are there, better football players come in along with better coaches. Not to mention the greatest rivalry outside of Alabama vs. Auburn could begin again.

I can already hear myself yelling, "Whup Troy!"

Every other sport here at JSU competes on the highest level of NCAA athletics, why not the football team?

Granted the last team in the state to make the jump dominated the I-AA ranks before making the jump, but this would be the opportune time to make such a commitment.

We have just installed a new football playing surface, the crews are building a huge television in the end zone and the team is gaining exposure via the television.

Obviously, the football team and staff is not quite up to par with

With Mississippi State being the biggest program Jacksonville State has played in recent memory, Troy has been battling with Nebraska, Florida State, Oklahoma State and the likes of big name college football programs.

I can foresee the Gamecocks taking on those types of programs and being just as successful as the other small colleges that have made the move up recently.

Even UAB, just over ten years ago, began their quest into the highest division of football and now their program is rising.

The Sun Belt conference would welcome Jacksonville State with open arms. Every program would benefit from a move up. More money comes in with contracts to get slaughtered by bigger programs, more fans are willing to watch JSU against Marshall rather than JSU and Murray State.

Not to mention conference games against much closer opponents. The OVC is a great league, but without Samford, JSU is stuck. Think about the things that could happen at this school. Think about the things that you could be involved in. Think about JSU in the New Orleans Bowl in 2011 live on ESPN.

The possibilities are endless with what could be done here at JSU with a move like this.

And if there is any need for more motivation, remember this: "Whup Troy!"

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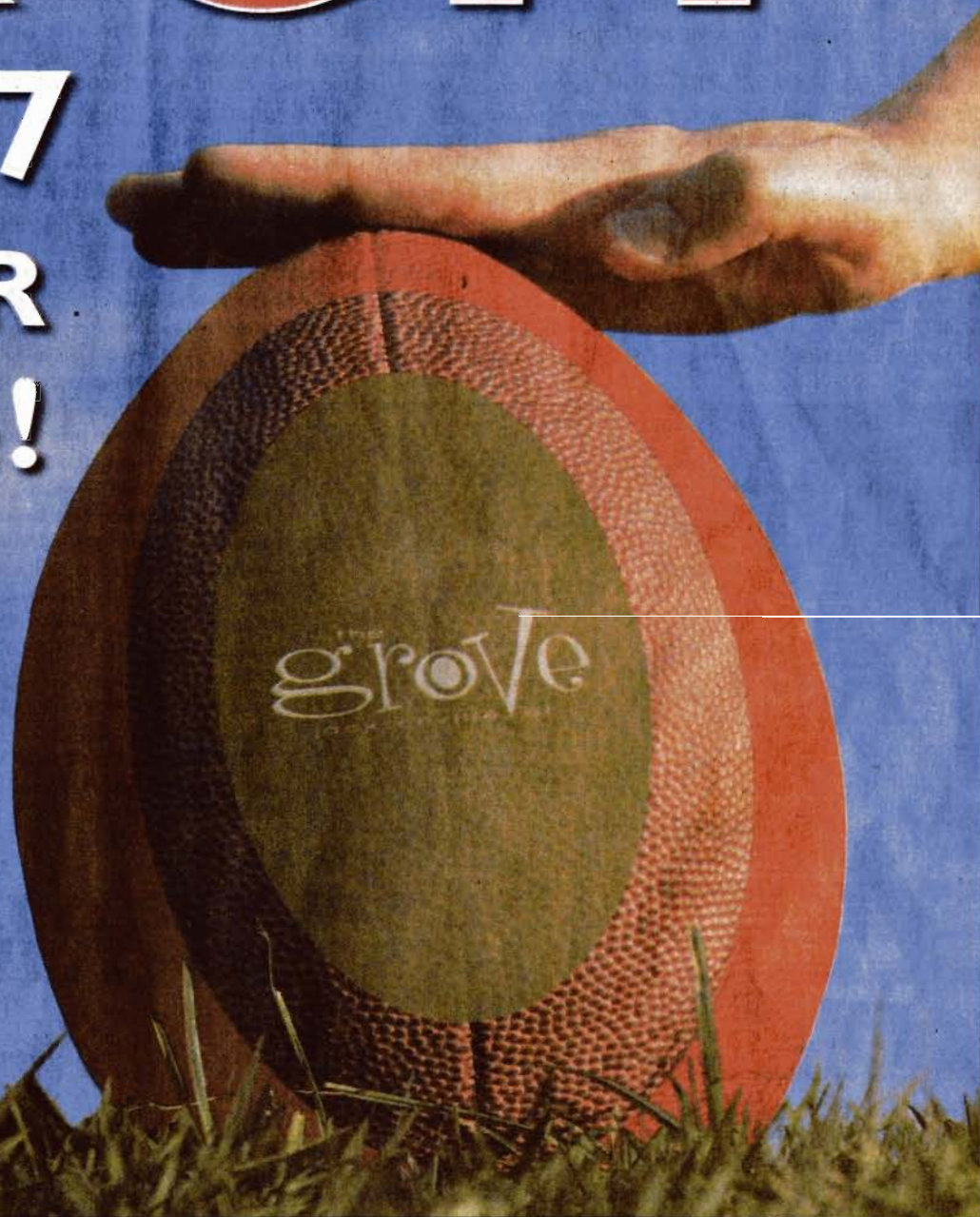
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